

Amendments to the Drawings:

The sheets of drawings attached in the Appendix include changes to Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. These sheets replace the original sheets. The Fig. 1 has been changed to correct the chemical formula for polylactic-co-glycolic acid. A complete Fig.2 is enclosed to replace the incomplete Fig. 2, which was published on October 23, 2003.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to correct obvious typographical and/or clerical errors. These amendments were originally made on 3 November 2003, under the provisions of Article 34 PCT. They were not, however, included in the International Preliminary Examination Report mailed on 13 July 2004. This preliminary amendment is also being made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 5, 6-8, 10, 12, 13 and 16.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

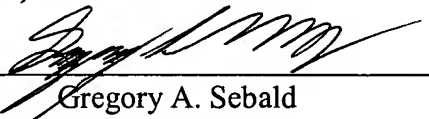
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336.4728.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: October 5, 2004

By



Gregory A. Sebald
Reg. No. 33,280

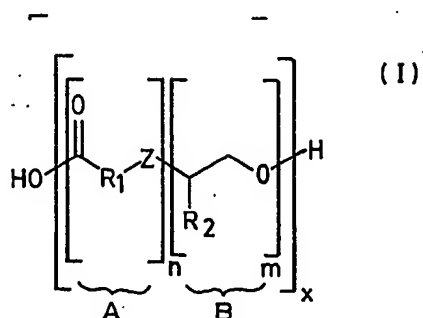
GAS/pjk

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a polymer of the formula I :



wherein:

Z is -O- or -NH-;

R₁ represents a non-functional backbone of a hydroxy acid or amino acid derived from a cyclic ester or diester or cyclic amide or diamide monomer (A);

R₂ represents a non-functional chain derived from an epoxide monomer (B), said chain ending with a graftable hydroxy or carboxylic group;

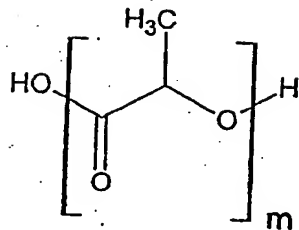
n is the number of units derived from the monomers (A);

m is the number of units derived from the monomers (B); and

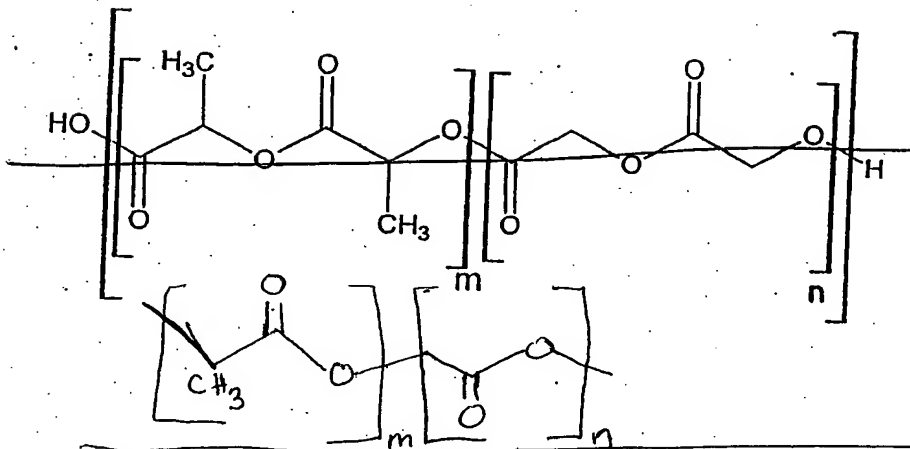
x is equal to n+m, the ratio m/x ranging from 0.005 to 0.30.

Also disclosed is a process of preparing this functionalizable polymer to the hydroxy or carboxylic groups of which can be grafted a compound selected from the group consisting of: ligands specific to cellular receptors, such as Selectine E; lipids; peptides; polyethers; polyacrylates; natural polymers; polyosides; antigens or antibodies; salen; and cyclodextrins. The so grafted polymer can be used as carried or excipient in the biomedical and pharmaceutical fields.

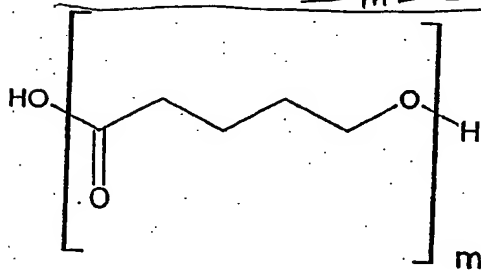
1 / 5



POLYLACTIC ACID
PLA



POLYLACTIC-CO-
GLYCOLIC ACID
PLGA



POLYCAPROLACTONE
PCL

FIG. 1

2 / 5

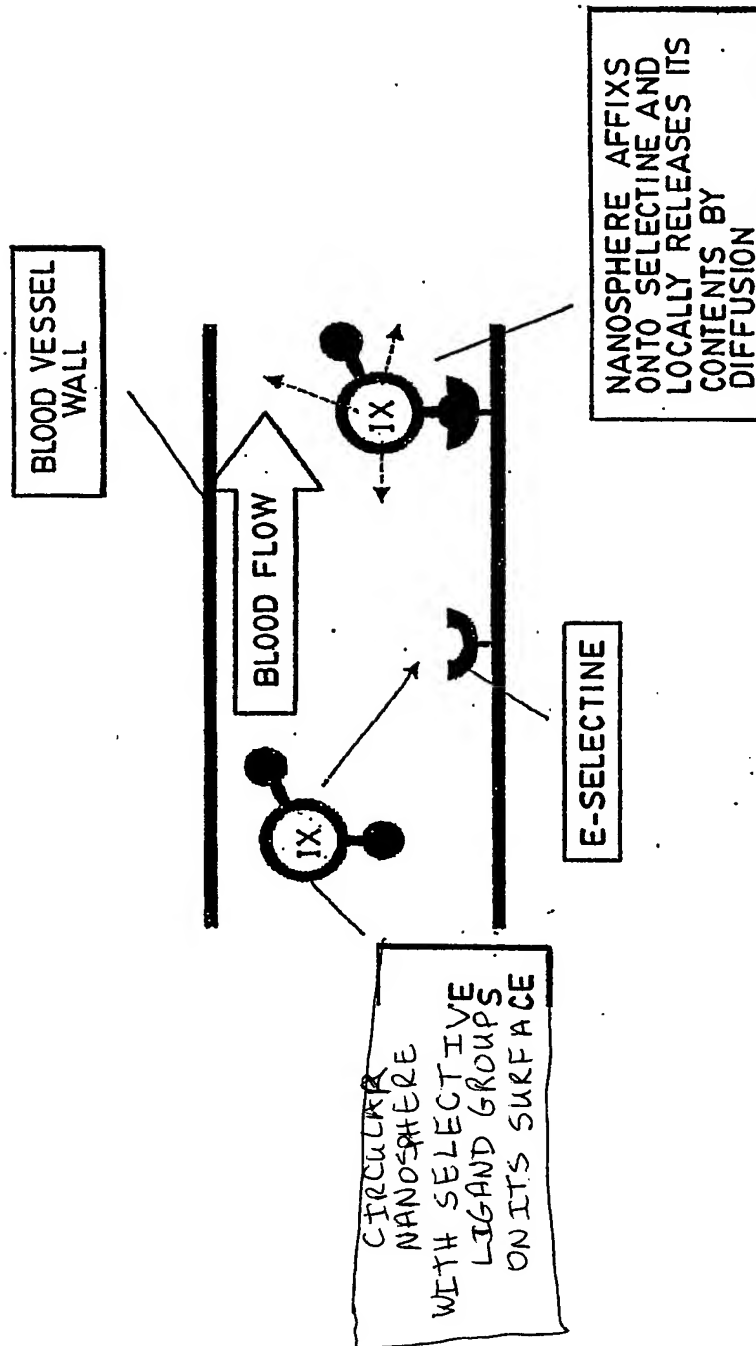


FIG. 2